



MCAN's State Appropriation Mobilizes the State Toward Sixty by 30

Funds are leveraged to drive talent and workforce development in Michigan

OUR FY26 REQUEST: INCREASE INVESTMENT IN COLLEGE ACCESS AND SUCCESS THROUGH MCAN'S STATEWIDE NETWORK TO \$5 MILLION FROM THE SCHOOL AID FUND

We're requesting a return to FY24 support of \$5 million in funding from the State of Michigan. Increasing MCAN's appropriation to \$5 million will allow us to further improve student success to increase Michigan's talent pool, while also sustaining our current investments into infrastructure, college access, and equity. MCAN leverages our state appropriation to secure philanthropic and federal funding at a nearly 3:1 ratio, multiplying the impact of Michigan's investment. As the State of Michigan is making historic investments in education and the workforce, MCAN maximizes those efforts through cross-sector, statewide alignment and equity-focused action that delivers vital support to the populations who need it most.

CENTERING EQUITY AND ACCESS FOR MICHIGAN STUDENTS

- Since our founding in 2010, Michigan College Access Network has worked with partners across the state to ensure **every student in Michigan has the opportunity and support to choose to attend and succeed in college.**
- Our work is **student-centric**, specifically focused on **low-income students, first-generation college-going students, and students of color.**
- MCAN is a true **public-private partnership** that leverages a state budget appropriation to raise philanthropic funding supporting a wide range of college access and success work in communities across the state.
- Our **advocacy work** helps to shape policy and processes to provide **resources, support, and accountability to state investments, all through an equity lens.**

STRATEGIC INVESTMENT ALIGNS AND AMPLIFIES EFFORTS

- **In fiscal year 2024, we leveraged a \$5 million appropriation toward college access and success**, helping to enhance State of Michigan investments into FAFSA completion and the Michigan Achievement Scholarship, supporting adult learners and college completion efforts, and engaging new workforce partners.
- Working in collaboration with State of Michigan agencies, including the Executive Office of the Governor, Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, Office of Sixty by 30, MiLEAP, Department of Education, and Department of Treasury, **MCAN aligns college access and success efforts of more than 1,000 Michigan institutions and organizations in our network**, maximizing impact and reducing redundancy.
- The new **Community College Guarantee** aligns with MCAN's work to create an educated Michigan workforce, and we are working with partners across the state to promote this pathway to eligible students and improve transfer pathways from community college to four-year institutions.



COLLEGE IS POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION.

COLLEGE IS A NECESSITY.

COLLEGE IS FOR EVERYONE.

COLLEGE IS A PUBLIC GOOD.



OUR STRATEGIES ADDRESS THE COLLEGE ENROLLMENT CRISIS

- Through MCAN's College Bound Michigan and AdviseMI programs, **we are integrated into more than 300 Michigan high schools each year**, delivering college-focused support to **tens of thousands of students**.
- Our College Completion Corps program is **helping nearly 4,000 community college students** each year persist and complete degrees and certificates.
- We help create and provide ongoing support for more than 20 **Local College Access Networks** to foster college going cultures in communities across the state.
- We offer a variety of **professional development opportunities** for school counselors, college advisers, educators, and others who work with students, at no cost to the participants.
- MCAN recruited, hired, and trained over 20 Retired Educator FAFSA Specialists throughout the state to assist adult residents with applying for Michigan Reconnect and enrolling in college, with a special focus on adults age 21-24 who are eligible for the temporary expansion of the scholarship.

MEETING MICHIGAN'S TALENT NEEDS FOR ECONOMIC SUCCESS

- Michigan was facing a **talent shortage** even before the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted every sector of our educational system, including **more than 50,000 fewer students enrolled in Michigan colleges and universities**.
- Recent data show Michigan is gaining in college attainment, but **we are behind pace to reach the Sixty by 30 goal** needed to build a workforce that is well equipped for the 21st century economy.
- If we want to address the crisis that is stifling the growth of Michigan businesses, **we must fund college access infrastructure at a scale and scope necessary to meet our state's talent needs for economic success**, allowing us to compete with neighboring Midwest states for business and economic interests.

HELPING STUDENTS SUCCEED, GROWING MICHIGAN'S TALENT POOL

With an appropriation of \$5 million, we'll build on our existing partnerships across the state to deliver the following:

- **Support Michigan's FAFSA completion efforts.** MCAN is helping more students connect with vital financial aid resources — including the Michigan Achievement Scholarship, Community College Guarantee, Michigan Reconnect, and other state financial aid programs — by offering professional development, grant support, and other resources around FAFSA completion.
- **Prepare high schoolers to jump start their careers.** MCAN is working with partners to increase participation in programs that offer college credit in high school — including Early and Middle Colleges, dual enrollment, International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, articulated Career and Technical Education credit, and the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) — to accelerate students' postsecondary pathways or prepare them to enter the workforce.
- **Increase Michigan's talent pool.** MCAN is supporting growth in apprenticeships, specifically those requiring certificates and degrees that will lead to better career outcomes for students. We're developing financial and policy solutions to incentivize colleges to create Credit for Prior Learning, CLEP, and other systems to acknowledge competencies already acquired by students, saving them money and reducing the time it takes to get them back into the labor force.
- **Support adult learners.** MCAN's Retired Educator FAFSA Specialists worked closely with Reconnect Navigators to provide information and FAFSA assistance for adults interested in community college. Other projects, including partnerships to create more CLEP testing centers and work with institutions that serve incarcerated people, are helping to improve college access in underserved populations.
- **Emphasize accountability in higher education.** MCAN is leading efforts for student success to be analyzed through the lens of disaggregated student completion performance data, tying more funding directly to student success outcomes. We are also championing higher education student success efforts, such as basic needs support programs and providing grant dollars to institutions to reduce barriers impacting student completion.



CONNECT WITH US

Questions on our appropriation request can be directed to Ryan Fewins-Bliss, MCAN executive director, at ryan@micollegeaccess.org or 517-898-6353.



State Budget Priorities — Fiscal Year 2026

UPDATED APRIL 2025

The following priorities from Michigan College Access Network include ways that we can work together to build capacity and increase the number of students entering the postsecondary pipeline and finishing with a postsecondary certificate or degree.

FUND COLLEGE ACCESS INFRASTRUCTURE

- Increase to and make ongoing MCAN's state appropriation at \$5 million to best support adult learners, college completion, and workforce and employer engagement in Michigan. In FY25, MCAN was appropriated \$4 million, including \$3 million in ongoing funds and \$1 million in one-time support. We are requesting \$5 million in ongoing funds.
- Increase investment in Michigan's community colleges and public universities by at least 3% and add best practice incentives.
- Emphasize accountability for higher education through the lens of student completion performance data, tying more funding directly to student success outcomes.
- Invest in K-12 education to ensure robust high school graduation and postsecondary enrollment through an increase to the foundation allowance of 3%.
- Increase funding to fully staff and operationalize the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP).
- Expand funding for the Michigan Department of Corrections to increase capacity for higher education providers to reduce the number of incarcerated individuals on the waitlist.

MAKE COLLEGE MORE AFFORDABLE

- Fully fund and improve Michigan Achievement Scholarship and the Community College Guarantee with a \$50M deposit into the postsecondary scholarship fund. Expand eligible time to enter the program from 15 to 24 months after high school graduation. Increase the Student Aid Index threshold to \$40,000 for students on the bachelor's degree pathway.
- Continue funding Michigan Reconnect, with expansion to cover all adults over 21 and elimination of the application.
- Fund basic needs support programs for college students and provide grant dollars to institutions to reduce barriers impacting student completion.
- Further invest in apprenticeships, specifically those producing certificates and degrees that will lead to better career outcomes for students.
- Create financial aid for adult students to attend a 4-year public or independent college or university to fill a gap in state support.

INCREASE CAREER PATHWAYS TO GROW TALENT

- Appropriate funds to support and incentivize high school student participation in all forms of early college credit programs – early/middle college, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Dual Enrollment, articulated Career and Technical Education credit, and the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP).
- Financially incentivize colleges to create Credit for Prior Learning, College-Level Examination Program (CLEP), and other systems to acknowledge competencies already acquired by students before enrollment. These programs save students and the State of Michigan money and reduce time to completion.

REMOVE BARRIERS IN FINANCIAL AID BOILERPLATE

- Invest in programs and systems that increase the number of males who enroll, persist, and complete college
- Ensure each financial aid program pays for all mandatory institutional fees, including all course fees, lab fees and anything required by a student's program of study to graduate.
- Require all financial aid programs to pay actual tuition and fee costs. Eliminate using the lowest resident rate, as well as Michigan Reconnect's limitation on paying out-of-district rates and paying for contact hours vs. clock hours.
- Require public reporting on all financial aid programs outlining at least the number of students served and their demographics, funds expended, and funds provided by higher education institutions.

Impact Map

Thank you for visiting the Impact Map, provided by the Michigan College Access Network (MCAN). This online resource displays current statewide data that can be viewed by ISD, school district, high school, college, county, prosperity region, and legislative district.

MCAN encourages all community stakeholders to use the Impact Map data to inform decision making and promote impactful change as we collectively work to increase postsecondary attainment in Michigan. With the ability to navigate between geographies, Impact Map users can compare schools, ISDs and regions across Michigan along seven key metrics. The Community Assets tab provides details about specific community programs such as Promise Zones and Local College Access Networks (LCANs), along with information related to the engagement of colleges and high schools in attainment and persistence strategies. This data promotes understanding of the educational assets and challenges in Michigan communities, and helps residents and stakeholders advocate for change.

Join the movement and support our mission of reaching **Sixty by 30** in Michigan.

[View a Region / ISD / County](#)

[View a High School / College / LCAN / Promise Zone](#)

[View a Legislative District](#)

Michigan Statewide Performance

Academic Readiness



945

Mean SAT Score

*Mean 11th Grade SAT score for the graduating class of 2024.**

25.1%

SAT College Readiness Rate

*Percent of students in the class of 2024 who met all the SAT college readiness benchmarks.**

88.3%

College Non-Remediation Rate

*Percent of college students from the high school class of 2023 that did not require remediation courses.**

Affordability



50.6%

2024 FAFSA Completion Rate As Of 9/30/2024

Percent of students in the class of 2024 who have completed a FAFSA as of 9/30/2024.

50.5%

2023 FAFSA Completion Rate as of 9/30/2023

Percent of students in the class of 2023 who completed a FAFSA.

Enrollment



58.7%

College Enrollment Rate

*Percent of students from the high school graduating class of 2023 enrolled in college within 12 months.**

Persistence



64.7%

Earn 24 Credits Within 16 Months Rate

*Percent of college-enrolled students from the class of 2022 who have earned 24 credits within 16 months of high school graduation.**

Completion



47.9%

6 Year Community College Completion Rate

*Percent of community college students entering in 2018-2019 who completed, graduated, or transferred within 6 years.**

78.3%

6 Year Public University Completion Rate

*Percent of public university students entering in 2018-2019 who completed within 6 years.**

39.0%

6 Year High School Graduate Postsecondary Completion Rate

*Percent of graduates from the class of 2018 who completed a postsecondary certificate or degree within 6 years.**

Attainment



47.5%

Attainment Rate

*Percent of Michigan adults ages 25-64 who have earned at least an associate degree.***
Statewide figure includes postsecondary certificates; county figures do not.*

Culture



76%

Importance of College

Percent of respondents believe that a college education is important.

89%

Likelihood of College

*Percent of respondents believe that their child is likely to obtain a college education.*****

* Source: Michigan Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI).

** Source: Michigan Department of Treasury/Student Scholarships and Grants (SSG).

*** Source: Lumina Foundation, A Stronger America.

**** Source: Michigan State University Institute for Public Policy and Social Research - State of the State Survey.